

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00367 221629Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221552Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5954

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 267

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0367

EXDIS

MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, LE, SY

SUBJECT: ADAD'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR REITERATES SYRIA'S  
OPPOSITION TO OTHER THAN SYRIAN MEDIATION IN LEBANON AND OPPOSES  
MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR LEBANON

1. ASKED ASAD'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ADIB DAOUDI,  
JANUARY 22 WHETHER SARG HAD ANY FRESH THOUGHTS ABOUT  
INTEREST OF OTHER ARAB AND ISLAMIC STATES IN  
HELPING MEDIATE LEBANESE CRISIS.  
DAOUDI REPLIED THAT SYRIA'S POSITION WAS  
UNCHANGED. AS ASAD HAD EXPLAINED TO SHAH IN COURSE THEIR  
TEHRAN MEETINGS, HE DID NOT OPPOSE IDEA THAT  
ISLAMIC STATES SHOULD TRY ASSIST RESOLVE LEBANESE  
CRISIS; HOWEVER, IN ASAD'S OPINION, IT WOULD REPRESENT  
A "COMPLICATION". IT WOULD PLAY INTO HANDS OF THOSE  
ELEMENTS IN LEBANON WHO SAW IT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 00367 221629Z

TO STALL AND AVOID GETTING DOWN TO HARD BARGAINING

AND COMPROMISES REQUIRED TO RE-ESTABLISH STABILITY. ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD'S OFFER OF MEDIATION AND/OR SUMMIT CONFERENCE, AS FAR AS SYRIA CONCERNED, WOULD INTRODUCE SAME COMPLICATION. FOR THIS REASON, SYRIA OPPOSED MULTIPLYING MEDIATION EFFORTS IN BEIRUT.

2. ASKED IF ERIC PACE'S JANUARY 21 REPORT TO NEW YORK TIMES THAT BAATH PARTY HAD SPOKEN OUT AGAINST FORMATION OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN LEBANON REPRESENTED NEW SARG STATEMENT. DAOUDI REPLIED THAT PARTY HAD TAKEN NO NEW POSITION AND THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL SYRIAN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING POTENTIAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN LEBANON. HE IMMEDIATELY NOTED, HOWEVER, SYRIA WOULD OPPOSE FORMATION OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT. IT SUPPORTED PRIMIN KARAME'S REMAINING IN OFFICE AND KARAME WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES AGREE PARTICIPATE IN PREDOMINANTLY MILITARY GOVERNMENT. FURTHERMORE, DAOUDI ASSERTED, NO SENIOR MUSLIM MILITARY OFFICER IN LEBANESE ARMY WOULD AGREE TO JOIN SUCH GOVERNMENT.  
MURPHY

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